

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 3 being independent. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended herein. In particular, the features of Claim 4 have been incorporated into independent Claims 1 and 3; thus no new issues are believed to have been raised.

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,652 (Tsuji). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to method of controlling a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit, the printing apparatus including a first control unit which controls operation of the printing apparatus, and a second control unit which can operate independently of the first control unit. The method includes an instruction generation step of causing the first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit of the printhead, the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed. The method further includes an acquisition step of causing the second control unit to receive the instruction generated by the first control unit in the instruction generation step, generating an address

for accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the instruction, accessing the storage unit at the address, and acquiring the specific information corresponding to the instruction. The method further includes a control step of causing the second control unit to drive and control the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired in the acquisition step in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition step includes a generation step of generating an access signal containing the address for reading out the specific information specified by the instruction generated in the instruction generation step from the storage unit, and a read step of accessing the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated in the generation step and reading out the specific information.

As recited in independent Claim 3, the present invention relates to a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit. The apparatus includes instruction generation means, acquisition means and control means. The instruction generation means generates an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead, the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed. The acquisition means receives the instruction generated by the instruction generation means, generates an address based on the instruction, accesses the storage unit of the printhead based on the address, and acquires the specific information corresponding to the instruction from the storage unit.

The control means drives and controls the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired by the acquisition means in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition means includes generation means for generating an access signal containing the address for reading out the specific information specified by the instruction generated by the instruction generation means from the storage unit, and read means for accessing the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated by the generation means and reading out the specific information.

Tsuji relates to a recording apparatus that can read various information, such as the amount of remaining ink and use start year and month, stored in non-volatile memories provided in ink cartridges. In particular, as understood by Applicants, memory access controlling section 3 receives address information from the apparatus main body controlling section 2 using serial communication, and acquires information corresponding to a command from non-volatile memories 4 and 5. See column 9, lines 32 and 33 and Figures 1 and 8. For example, as shown in Figure 8(b), the command received by the memory access controlling section 3 includes address data. Contrary to the Examiner's position, memory access controlling section 3 cannot correspond to the claimed acquisition step or means recited in Claims 1 and 3. The memory access controlling section 3 merely uses an access address received from the apparatus main body controlling section and the memory access controlling section 3 does not generate an address for accessing the memory.

Accordingly, Tsuji cannot disclose or suggest at least an acquisition means or step for receiving a generated instruction, generating an address based on the instruction, accessing a storage unit of a printhead based on the address or at the address, and acquiring specific information corresponding to the instruction, with the acquisition means or step including generating an access signal containing the address for reading out the specific information specified by the generated instruction from the storage unit, and accessing the storage unit in accordance with the generated access signal and reading out the specific information, as is recited in independent Claims 1 and 3.

Thus, Tsuji fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 3 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

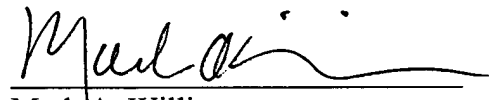
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 3. Dependent Claims 2 and 5-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection does not raise new issues, is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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